



# THE ELECTION Connection

KING COUNTY ELECTIONS | SEPTEMBER 2010

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Director of Elections

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## Be an Informed Voter

You may have noticed a hint of fall in the air, which means that the November 2 General Election is right around the corner. Now is a good time to make sure your voter registration information is up to date.

In every election, hundreds of voters don't get their ballots in time because they moved and didn't update their address with Elections. In addition, we contact thousands of voters to resolve problems with their signatures, often because they have changed their name or their signature has changed. So make sure that your information stays current! This not only helps the Elections office process your ballot quickly and efficiently, it helps contain costs. You are an important partner in helping government be financially responsible.

You can check on your registration by visiting King County Elections in Tukwila, calling 206-296-VOTE or by using the Voter Guide on our website ([www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections)).

Here are some other ways to make sure your ballot is processed quickly and to keep costs down:

- Only use blue or black pen to mark your ballot
- Remove and recycle the stub at the top of the ballot
- Carefully follow the instructions on the ballot and in the voters' pamphlet
- Read your entire ballot, front and back, before filling it out
- Sign the oath on the back of the return envelope

Be an informed voter and help make the November election a successful one!

## 2010 Primary Election

The Primary Election in King County saw a turnout of more than 420,000 voters, or 39 percent. More than 11,000 ballots were returned at Ballot Drop Boxes and

274 were cast at Accessible Voting Centers. The highest day for ballot returns was August 18, when we received about 95,000 ballots in the mail! The election was certified on Wednesday, September 1.



*Ballots awaiting signature verification*

## Precinct Committee Officers

This is the election year for Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) to appear on the ballots. PCOs are elected officials of the Democratic and Republican parties, and represent that party to their precinct. They are elected every other year in the primary. There were 2,538 PCO races in King County, resulting in the Elections Department creating more than 2,500 different ballot styles.

## Are you a last minute voter?

Many people like the tradition of dropping their ballot in the mail or a Ballot Drop Box on Election Day, but there are a lot of great reasons to vote and return your ballot early. Your vote is more likely to be included in the results released on Election Night. More importantly, King County Elections will have more time to connect with you if there is any difficulty verifying your signature. Remember: Voting begins as soon as receive your ballot!

## Voter Signature

If you think about it, your signature has always been a part of the voting process – whether you entered it into the poll books in the past, or signed the oath that accompanied your absentee ballot. King County now votes entirely by mail, and as part of that process, voters are required to sign the Voter Oath on the back of the return envelope.

King County has returned to the envelope style it has used in the past – without the flap that covers the signature. The flap became part of the return envelope

in 2005 as part of state legislation that instituted a number of changes in elections. The flap is no longer required by law, and King County has decided to return to the old style of return envelope.

How you vote remains completely confidential. Your ballot is sealed in an inner security envelope. And, return envelopes are handled only by mail sorting equipment, and postal and elections officials.

## Election Information in Chinese

Voters often ask us why King County produces election materials in a language other than English, and why in Chinese. Federal law requires

counties to provide language assistance if more than 10,000 or 5 percent of voting age citizens in a jurisdiction are members of a single-language group who do not speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process.

According to the last U.S. Census taken in 2000, the only qualifying language in King County was Chinese. As a result, King County produces all election information, both print materials and online, in English and Chinese. Chinese language assistance is also available through the Voter Hotline. Results from the 2010 Census will be analyzed for changes to our language requirements.

Information in Chinese is available at [www.kingcounty.gov/elections/Chinese](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/Chinese).



*Last minute voters lined up at the Tukwila Ballot Drop Box*

## Important Dates

### **October 4**

Deadline for voter registration updates

### **October 13**

Ballots mailed to King County voters  
Start voting now!

### **October 25**

Deadline for new Washington voter  
registrations for the November 2 election

### **November 2**

General Election Day  
Ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. or  
postmarked by this day

### **November 23**

Election is certified and final results  
reported

## Contact Us

Please note our physical address is  
different than our mailing address.

**In person:** 9010 East Marginal Way S.  
Tukwila, WA 98108

**Phone:** 206-296-VOTE (8683)  
TTY: Relay: 711

**E-mail:** [elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elections@kingcounty.gov)

**By mail:** 919 Southwest Grady Way  
Renton, WA 98057

**Online:** [www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections)

## Stay Current with Election News

How do you get your news? If you're like many King County voters,  
and prefer to go online for news and information, here are some  
great ways to keep up with the latest from King County Elections:



Website, [www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections)



Facebook, [www.facebook.com/KingCountyElections](http://www.facebook.com/KingCountyElections)



Blog, [www.kingcountynews.wordpress.com](http://www.kingcountynews.wordpress.com)



Twitter, [www.twitter.com/kcnews](http://www.twitter.com/kcnews)